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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,937	08/03/2001	Val Gont	0811.1220000	8800
26111	7590	08/13/2004	EXAMINER	
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BHATNAGAR, ANAND P	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2623		
DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/920,937	GONT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anand Bhatnagar	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08/03/01 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

A.) Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam et al. (U.S. patent 5,694,481) and Kross et al. (U.S. patent 6,285,369 B1).

Regarding claim 1: An editor in a computer system for a schematic having a number of pages (Lam et al.; col. 1 lines 7-9, col. 3 lines 55-58 and 65-67, and col. 7 lines 2-5, wherein the schematic layout system consists an editor. The layer images are read as “pages”) comprising:

a module for connecting nets having the same label located on the same schematic page (Lam et al.; col. 4 lines 6-15, col. 6 lines 55-67, and col. 11 lines 12-20, wherein the labeled features are connected).

Lam et al. discloses a schematic layout system wherein the different image layers “pages” of an IC are mosaiced together. Lam et al. further discloses to have an editor incorporated into the system (Lam et al.; col. 7 lines 2-5). Lam et al. does not teach that the editor contains any cut and paste operations. Kross et al. teaches wherein a design editor contains a cut and paste operations as well as other editing functions

(Kross et al.; col. 3 lines 62-67 and col. 4 lines 1-9 and 54-60). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Kross et al. to that of Lam et al. because they are analogous in editing design applications. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the teaching of Kross et al. to the system of Lam et al. in order to allow users to design various products in varying degrees of detail (Kross et al.; col. 1 lines 14-16).

Regarding claim 2: An editor which further includes a module for searching for objects within the schematic netlist. (Kross et al.; col. 5 lines 11-15, wherein the designs are placed into a database. It is obvious to one skilled in the art that to retrieve a specific design from a database a search must be performed to locate it in the memory). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the system of Kross et al. wherein the search would include to search the netlist that is created by the system of Lam et al. in order to find a specific feature in the design circuit.

Regarding claim 3: An editor wherein the object is a signal label (Lam et al.; col. 11 lines 11-20).

Regarding claim 4: An editor wherein the module provides a list of signal labels found on a preselected schematic page (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-64 and col. 16 lines 52-65, wherein a netlist is determined for all the image layers “pages”).

Regarding claim 5: An editor wherein the module provides a list of pages on which the signal label is found (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-64 and

col. 16 lines 52-65, wherein a netlist is determined for all the image layers "pages." The netlist will contain the locations/layers of the features of the schematic).

Regarding claim 6: An editor wherein the object is a cell (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-55).

Regarding claim 7: An editor wherein the module provides a list of cells found on a preselected schematic page (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-64 and col. 16 lines 52-65, wherein a netlist and/or cells are determined for all the image layers "pages.")

Regarding claim 8: An editor wherein the cell may be searched using one of the following: cell coordinates, name label or attributes (Lam et al.; col. 11 lines 12-20, wherein the features are read as attributes).

Regarding claim 9: An editor as wherein the module provides a list of schematic pages on which the cell is found (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-64 and col. 16 lines 52-65, wherein a netlist is determined for all the image layers "pages." The netlist will contain the locations/layers of the features of the schematic).

Regarding claim 10: An editor which further includes a module for eliminating extra pins or segment endings on a schematic (Kross et al.; col. 4 lines 54-56, wherein the image can be modified by cutting features from the image).

Regarding claim 11: An editor as claimed in claim 1 which further includes a module for rendering invisible the labels on a current active

page or on all of the schematic pages (Kross et al.; col. 4 lines 54-60, wherein many editing functions are available to edit an image). Kross et al. does not specifically teach to make labels invisible. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the feature of making parts of an image invisible so that when the circuit/design is completed the changed or deleted features do not show up on the completed design.

Regarding claim 12: An editor further includes a module for adding IN/OUT elements to pin segments (Kross et al.; col. 4 lines 54-60. Most editing functions contain the function of adding and or deleting features).

Regarding claim 13: An editor which further includes a module for cutting a net on a schematic and providing a signal label to the two cut ends of the net (Kross et al.; col. 4 lines 54-56).

Regarding claim 14: A computer-readable medium containing project viewer software and project schematic netlist data including schematic page numbers, cell names, nets, signal labels and segments (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 49-67).

Lam et al. discloses to create a netlist of features of different layers "pages." Lam et al. also discloses to have labels for edges (read as signals) and to locate edge clusters (read as segments). Lam et al. does not disclose project these features on a display. Lam does teach to display an intermediate image to look for errors but does not teach to project these features (Lam et al.; col. 6 lines 65-67). Kross et al. teaches wherein a user chooses viewing conditions of the design (col. 4 lines 58-62). It

would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to display the images with the features of interest as desired.

Regarding claim 15: A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 14 wherein the project viewer software controls output schematic images and enables a user to view, trace and search objects throughout the project netlist data (Kross et al.; col. 4 lines 58-62, wherein the viewing/displaying/editing/etc. is controlled by the user).

Regarding claims 16 and 17: They are rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 15 combined.

Conclusion

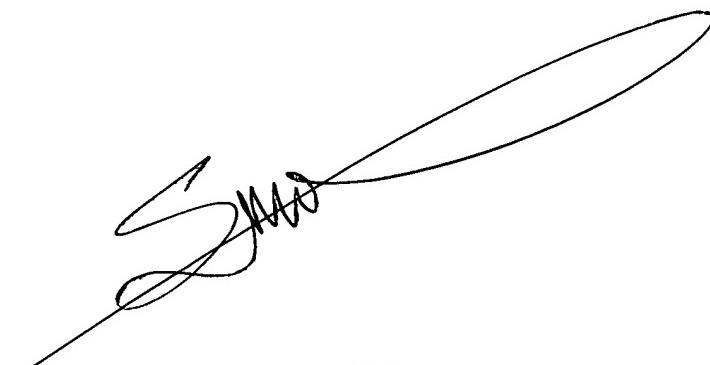
2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

North et al. (U.S. patent 6,654,947) for an image editing system.

Carter et al. (U.S. patent 6,077,308) for a circuit layout system.

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (703) 306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.



SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit 2623

August 7, 2004